INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CURRENT MEDICAL SCIENCES

ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITIES OF PNEUMOCOCCAL BACTERIA ISOLATED FROM ADULTS PATIENTS IN A CERTAIN HOSPITAL IN INDONESIA

Risrina Nur Ekawati¹,², Tina Rostinawati³ and *Anas Subarnas¹

¹Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Padjadjaran, Jatinangor, Sumedang 45363, Indonesia
²Department of Pharmaceutical Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Padjadjaran, Jatinangor, Sumedang 45363, Indonesia
³Department of Health of Garut regency, West Java, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

Respiratory tract infections are serious prevalent infectious diseases which cause increase of morbidity and mortality worldwide including in Indonesia. Antibiotics used to treat these infections give effective response, but the problem emerges concerning the increasing prevalence of antibacterial resistance because of irrational use of antibiotics. This study was aimed to identify strains of bacteria isolated from respiratory tract infections patients of adults in one of the hospitals in West Java of Indonesia and determine susceptibility of bacteria to some antibiotics. Identification of bacteria was done based on the morphological examination and gram staining test, followed up by the 16S rRNA PCR-Sequencing method for a final confirmation of the strains of bacteria. Susceptibility of bacteria was tested by agar diffusion method, and the data were compared with the related data in reference book of Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). The results indicated that nine strains of bacteria were identified from ten sputum samples and most were gram negative bacteria, Citrobacter koseri, Enterobacter Sp., Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Acinetobacter bercizinia, Klebsiella Varicola, Stenotrophomonas pavani, and Acinetobacter baumani, and two strains were gram positive bacteria, Staphylococcus aureus and Staphylococcus epidermidis. Most of the bacteria were resistant to amoxicillin and cefadroxil, some were resistant and intermediate to ceftriaxone and cefotaxime, some were resistant and susceptible to trimethoprim, and most were susceptible to sulfamethoxazole. This study concluded that the bacteria identified had variation in susceptibility to antibiotics tested, where most were resistant to β-lactam antibiotics and were susceptible and intermediate to sulfamethoxazole.

INTRODUCTION

Respiratory tract infections are generally caused by several kinds of microorganisms, but mainly due to viruses and bacteria. Bacterial pathogens have an important etiological role and some are known as the most common cause of childhood respiratory tract infections, such as Streptococcus pneumoniae, S. pyogenes, Haemophilus influenza, Moraxella catarrhalis, and Mycoplasma pneumoniae (Edmond et al., 1996; McCracken, 2000; Gleason, 2002; Principi and Esposito, 2002). Antibiotic treatment effectively responds to the cases of respiratory infections, however, irrational uses of antibiotics were widespread especially among children in developing countries and often cause antibacterial
resistance (Felmingham et al., 2004). Furthermore, considerable variation in the prevalence of resistance occurs both between and within countries, and resistance of pathogens emerges rapidly in specific localities (Felmingham and Gruneberg, 2000; Felmingham, 2002; Adam, 2002).

These phenomena of the increasing prevalence of resistance of bacterial respiratory pathogens led to complication of selection of first-line treatment due to difficulty in determining the etiological agents of the respiratory infections (Felmingham and Gruneberg, 2000; Felmingham, 2002). Since infections vary with time and geographies, in identification of etiological bacteria of respiratory infections and evaluation of antibacterial resistance are clearly important for rational uses of antibiotics and effective management of respiratory tract infections.

This study was aimed to identify bacterial pathogens of respiratory tract infections amongst adults in a national hospital in West Java of Indonesia and determine susceptibility of identified bacteria to some antibiotics. In this national hospital, morbidity caused by respiratory tract infections or pneumococcal infections among adults is high enough.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample collection and Processing

Samples were collected from sputum of adults with pneumococcal infections hospitalized in a national hospital in West Java of Indonesia. The samples were sent to the Laboratory of Microbiology of Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Padjadjaran, Sumedang, Indonesia for processing and analyses. The processing of the samples was carried out according to standard guidelines. Briefly, samples of sputum were taken, collected in a small plastic tube, and 3 ml of the specimen was put into sterile Trypticase Soy Broth (TSB) media, then incubated at 37°C for 18-24 hours. One ose of the suspension of bacteria was taken, scratched on the solid Trypticase Soy Agar (TSA) prepared before, and incubated at 37°C for 18-24 hours. Suspicious colonies were then subcultured in new TSA media for purification and thereafter stored in the refrigerator for subsequent analysis.

Identification of bacteria

Preliminary identification of isolates was done based on the morphological examination and gram staining test. The identification was then followed up according to the 16S rRNA PCR-Sequencing method for a final confirmation of the isolates. Isolation of total DNA was performed following isolation protocol of GeneJET™ Genomic DNA Purification Kit, and amplification of the 16S rRNA gene was carried out by the PCR method. The primer 1492R (5’GGTTACCTTGTTACGAC3’) and primer 27F (5’AGAGTTTGATCMTGCGCAG3’) were used for the 16S rRNA gene amplification. DNA of bacteria resulted from PCR was analyzed by electrophoresis and DNA strands formed were observed by mini trans-illuminator UV.

Sequencing of 16S rRNA fragment

Sequencing of 16S rRNA fragment was done by the use of Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) of nucleotide sequence which was matched with the data base.

Bacterial susceptibility testing

Susceptibility of bacteria to antibiotics was tested using agar diffusion method. The antibiotics used were amoxicillin (10 μg), sefadroxil (30 μg), trimethoprim (5 μg), sulfamethoxazole (300 μg), ceftriaxone (30 μg), and sefotaxime (30 μg). In brief, each petri disc containing suspension of bacterial cultures was added liquid Moeller Hinton Agar (MHA) (40-50 °C). The mixture was then homogenized and allowed until solid. The density was compared with a barium chloride standard (0.5 McFarland). Next, antibiotic discs were placed on the plates of agar media, spacing each disc well to avoid overlapping of inhibition zones. The plates were incubated at 37 °C for 24 hr, and the diameters of inhibition zones were recorded. The results were compared with the related data available in reference book of Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) 2007.

Place of study

This study was carried out in a national hospital in Garut regency, West Java of Indonesia.

Ethical clearance

Before this research was performed, the proposal was submitted to the Research Ethical Committee of Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Padjadjaran, Bandung, Indonesia for approval of Informed Consent.

RESULTS

Strains of bacteria identified from samples

Ten bacteria were isolated from 10 samples of sputums derived from 10 adults with pneumococcal infections hospitalized in a certain hospital in West Java of Indonesia. The bacteria were identified based on the morphological examination and gram staining test, followed up by an application of the 16S rRNA PCR-Sequencing method. Nine strains of bacteria were identified as shown in Fig 1 and Table 1.

![Fig 1 DNA visualization resulted from amplification of genes encoding 16S rRNA](Image)

Results of DNA visualization indicated one strand of DNA parallel with the marker used at the base size of 1500 pb (Fig. 1). The strand matched with the restriction
of DNA strand resulted from the primer 1492R and primer 27F, 1500 pb (Janda and Abbott, 2007).

Table 1 Nucleotide BLAST of DNA of 16S rRNA bacteria on samples R1-R10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Identified Bacteria</th>
<th>Gram of bacteria</th>
<th>Homology (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R1</td>
<td>Citrobacter koseri</td>
<td>Gram Negative</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R2</td>
<td>Enterobacter Sp.</td>
<td>Gram Negative</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R3</td>
<td>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</td>
<td>Gram Negative</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R4</td>
<td>Acinetobacter bereziniae</td>
<td>Gram Negative</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R5</td>
<td>Klebsiella Varicola</td>
<td>Gram Negative</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R6</td>
<td>Stenotrophomonas pavani</td>
<td>Gram Negative</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R7</td>
<td>Staphylococcus aureus</td>
<td>Gram Positive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R8</td>
<td>Acinetobacter baumanii</td>
<td>Gram Negative</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R9</td>
<td>Staphylococcus epidermidis</td>
<td>Gram Positive</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R10</td>
<td>Staphylococcus epidermidis</td>
<td>Gram Positive</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 shows that nine different types of bacteria were isolated and identified from 10 samples, in which each bacterium derived from each different sample, except S. epidermidis was identified from samples R9 and R10. Most of the bacteria identified belong to gram negative, and only two strains of gram positive bacteria were found, i.e. S. aureus and S. epidermidis.

Susceptibility of bacteria

Identified bacteria were tested for their susceptibility to some antibiotics i.e. amoxicillin (10 μg), cefadroxil (30 μg), trimethoprim (5 μg), sulfamethoxazole (300 μg), ceftriaxone (30 μg), and cefotaxime (30 μg). These antibiotics were commonly used in the treatment of pneumococcal infections of patients treated in the hospital where this study was carried out, with different frequency of use. Their inhibition zone diameter was compared with that reported in the standard and guideline of CLSI 2007.

Table 2 Susceptibility of Citrobacter koseri, Enterobacter Sp., Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Acinetobacter bereziniae, Klebsiella Varicola, Stenotrophomonas pavani, Staphylococcus aureus, Acinetobacter baumanii, and Staphylococcus epidermidis to amoxicillin, cefadroxil, trimethoprim, sulfamethoxazole, ceftriaxone, and cefotaxime.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antibiotics</th>
<th>Zone Diameter of Inhibition (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. koseri</td>
<td>E. Sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amoxicillin</td>
<td>Niz (r)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cefadroxil</td>
<td>Niz (r)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trimethoprim.</td>
<td>Niz (r)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfamethoxazole</td>
<td>16.26 (i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceftriaxone</td>
<td>16.54 (i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cefotaxime</td>
<td>17.53 (i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. aeruginosa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. bereziniae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. varicola</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. pavani</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. aureus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. baumanii</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. epidermidis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Niz: No inhibition zone; r: resistant; i: intermediate; s: sensitive

Table 2 shows zone diameters of inhibition of six antibiotics tested and susceptibility categories of the bacteria which were already identified. Susceptibility categories were determined as resistant, intermediate or susceptible after zone diameters of the antibiotics tested were compared with those of standard references in CLSI 2007.

C. koseri was resistant to amoxicillin, cefadroxil, and trimethoprim as no inhibition zone was observed. This bacteria was not resistant to sulfamethoxazole, ceftriaxone, and cefotaxime, but its susceptibility decreased as the inhibition zone of those antibiotics was in the intermediate category according to CLSI 2007. Enterobacter sp was susceptible to trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole, and resistant to other four antibiotics tested. P. aeruginosa was resistant to four antibiotics, and was susceptible only to sulfamethoxazole. A. bereziniae was resistant to amoxicillin, cefadroxil, and trimethoprim as the diameter of inhibition zone belonged to resistant levels. It is susceptible to sulfamethoxazole and intermediate to ceftriaxone and cefotaxime.

K. Varicola, like P. aeruginosa, was resistant to all antibiotics, in exception to sulfamethoxazole, it showed susceptibility in intermediate category. S. pavani was resistant to amoxicillin and cefotaxime, intermediate to cefadroxil and ceftriaxone, and susceptible to trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole. S. aureus was resistant to three antibiotics, amoxicillin, cefadroxil, and sulfamethoxazole, and intermediate to three other antibiotics, trimethoprim, ceftriaxone and cefotaxime, whereas A. baumanii was resistant to cefadroxil and ceftriaxone, intermediate to amoxicillin and cefotaxime, and susceptible to trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole. The last, S. epidermidis was resistant to all antibiotics tested.

DISCUSSION

This study evaluated antibacterial susceptibility of some bacteria isolated from adults with respiratory tract infections in a certain hospital. Every hospital in Indonesia has its own conditions and standard operational procedures in performing health care services toward patients with infectious diseases. So, prevalence of antibacterial resistance may vary among hospitals as it is reported that considerable variation in the prevalence of resistance occurs both between and within countries (Felmingham and Gruneberg, 2000; Felmingham, 2002; Adam, 2002). An age of patients influences the prevalence of resistance, in which children are more prone to undergo infection with resistant pathogens than adults (Reichler et al., 1992; Reinert et al., 2003).

The present study identified bacteria isolated from sputum of adults with respiratory tract infections. Most of the bacteria identified were gram negative, only two gram positive bacteria were found, S. aureus and S. epidermidis.

One of failures in treatment of infectious diseases is caused by resistance of bacteria to an antibiotic used. Bacteria can become resistant by adapting their structure or function in some way that prevents them from being fully inhibited or killed by the antibiotic. Simply, an antibiotic that is used to cure an infection may not work anymore. Consequently, infections with drug-resistant
bacteria may lead to longer and more costly hospital care, and may increase the risk of dying from the infection.

Therefore, all bacteria identified in this study were important to be evaluated for their susceptibility to antibiotics usually used for the treatment of respiratory tract infections in the hospital where this study was done. The susceptibility categories of the bacteria were confirmed by comparing the diameter of inhibition zone of the antibiotics tested with those available in the standard and guideline of CLSI 2007. There was variation in susceptibility categories, which indicated that each bacterium had different susceptibility to the antibiotics. Based on the susceptibility tests, most of the bacteria were resistant to a class of β-lactam antibiotics, in particular to amoxicillin and cefadroxil. Almost all strains of bacteria were resistant to these two antibiotics, except A. baumannii was intermediate to amoxicillin and S. pavanii to cefadroxil. Some bacteria were resistant to ceftriaxone and cefotaxime, and some were intermediate, and no one was susceptible.

Amoxicillin and cefalosporin antibiotics (cefadroxil, ceftriaxone, and cefotaxime) are broad-spectrum antibiotics, effective in gram-positive and gram-negative bacterial infections. In the hospital concerned this study, ceftriaxone and cefotaxime belonging to a third-generation of cefalosporin are the first choice and the most frequently used for the treatment of respiratory tract infections, whereas amoxicillin and cefadroxil are also used but not as frequent as ceftriaxone and cefotaxime. However, according to this study, the effectivity of ceftriaxone and cefotaxime much decreased as some strains of bacteria tested were resistant and some strains were intermediate to these antibiotics.

Interestingly, trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole belonging to rarely used antibacterial agents for respiratory tract infections showed better effectivity, especially sulfamethoxazole. This was indicated by the findings that most strains of bacteria were susceptible to sulfamethoxazole, and only two bacteria were resistant, S. aureus and S. epidermidis. Trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole have different mechanism of action with β-lactam antibiotics, and these two antibacterial agents are available and usually used in a combination preparation. In this study these agents were separately investigated, because a combination preparation contains other agents as fillers that may disturb the results of the test.

The overall findings of this study present a challenge to appropriate prescribing for respiratory tract infections. However, this study was lack of number of samples investigated. The number of samples were too low to provide clear information about prevalence of bacterial resistance to antibiotics for respiratory tract infections.

CONCLUSION

This study found that most of strains of bacteria isolated from the patients of adults with pneumococcal infections were identified as gram negative bacteria. The bacteria had variation in susceptibility to antibiotics tested, where most were resistant to β-lactam antibiotics, amoxicillin, cefradroxil, ceftriaxone and cefotaxime, and susceptible and intermediate to sulfamethoxazole. Further study is required to examine susceptibility of bacteria isolated from more samples of sputum derived from pneumococcal infectious patients.

Acknowledgment

The authors are grateful to the authority of the hospital where this study was carried out and to the Ministry of Health of Indonesia who supported finalcial aid during this study.

References


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